From: KQED News
To: Rather, Terry (SHF)
Subject: Who Should Pay for Wildfire Liability So Utilities Don"t Go Bankrupt?
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 7:00:58 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

If you are having trouble reading this email, read the online version.

News Daily Logo

Who Should Pay for Wildfire Liability So Utilities Don't Go Bankrupt?

two snails

With one of California's three investor-owned utilities in bankruptcy proceedings and major credit ratings agencies warning that a severe wildfire this year could push either of the other two in the same direction, a new debate is erupting in Sacramento over how to tackle the deepening crisis.

One of the major proposals being floated: A utility-backed, state run re-insurance fund to cover losses from wildfires that exceed private insurance coverage purchased by utilities and homeowners.

The utilities are also watching closely to see how the California Public Utilities Commission implements a bill aimed at keeping them out of bankruptcy while passing on as much costs to shareholders as possible.

These discussions have picked up steam as the warnings from Wall Street have grown louder in recent weeks.

Related coverage: A Controversial Executive Could Become PG&E's Next CEO

Illustration: Elena Lacey/KQED

Student Alleges Cal Football Coaches Sexually Harassed Her, UC Berkeley Investigating

two snails

UC Berkeley officials said Thursday they're investigating allegations that football coaches and athletes harassed a female student working for the team.

The woman shared her accusations in a public post on Facebook on Wednesday, alleging that a coach tried to force her to have sex with him, saying "I will get you fired if you do not have sex with me." Another coach followed her home, telling her she "would look amazing in a bikini," she wrote. She identified herself as Paige Cornelius and detailed constant harassment on the field and on social media.

Cal Athletics said it has sent Cornelius' allegations to the campus Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination, which is responsible for

investigating such accusations.

"These allegations go against the very core of our values," Cal Athletics said in a statement. "Cal Athletics is and will always be committed to fostering a culture where everyone feels safe, welcome and respected."

Photo: The Colorado Buffaloes take on Cal at California Memorial Stadium on Nov. 24, 2018, in Berkeley. (Ezra Shaw/Getty Images)

Richmond Police Officer Fired for Lying in 'Celeste Guap' Case, New Records Show

One of the Richmond police officers swept up in the "Celeste Guap" sexual exploitation case in 2016 was fired from the force for making false statements to internal affairs investigators, and another was suspended for an unspecified period of time for having sex on duty, according to brief records on the matter released Wednesday.

Officer Jerred Tong was "untruthful during an administrative investigation," states a document made public under the state's new police transparency law, SB 1421. Officer Terrance Jackson "engaged in (a) sexual act on duty," it says. No further details were released and may not be for weeks, Richmond officials said.

While the officers' roles in the scandal have been known, the exact nature of their discipline has not been. Both City Manager Carlos Martinez and Police Chief Allwyn Brown said several other officers were disciplined in the sex scandal, but those records didn't fall under what the new law allows to be made public.

Related coverage: Even With New Disclosure Law, Fight Continues to Unseal California's Secret Police Files

Women at GDC 2019 Say They Have No Fear of Being Excluded From Game Development

An estimated 28,000 gamers and industry insiders have descended on San Francisco this week for this year's Game Developers Conference (GDC). Despite the fact millions of women worldwide play games, there's still a giant gender divide on the development side.

Conference organizers conduct a survey of attendees every year. This year, the split is 77 percent male attendees, 19 percent female, two percent "other" and two percent declined to answer.

"It's a small but noticeable shift from last year, when 80 percent of survey

respondents identified as 'male' and just 17 percent identified as 'female,'" said spokeswoman Chrissy Kelleher.

In other words, the gaming workforce looks quite similar to the tech workforce in general, from a gender perspective.

That was the topic du jour at this week's Microsoft Women in Gaming Rally, a GDC-adjacent mixer in San Francisco with about 1,000 attendees, mostly women, who gathered to mingle and enjoy the feeling of dominating a room for a few hours.

New Postpartum Depression Drug Could Be Hard to Access for Moms Most in Need

NPR reports: One in nine women in the United States suffer from depression after childbirth. For some women, postpartum depression is so bad that they struggle to care for their children and may even consider or attempt suicide.

This week, the Food and Drug Administration approved a new drug that can help, the first drug approved specifically for postpartum depression. While researchers and clinicians are excited about the drug's potential, some foresee obstacles to making it available to women who need it the most.

Postpartum depression is more common among women from lower socio-economic groups, yet the drug, which comes with a $34,000 price tag and requires a stay in a healthcare facility, could be out of reach for many of these women.

And there will likely be logistical hurdles in delivering the drug, experts say, because it has to be given via a one-time continuous IV infusion over 60 hours under medical supervision at a hospital or another medical facility.

Suffering From Nature Deficit Disorder? Try Forest Bathing

As an avid hiker, I live by this. NPR reports: In Japan, the country that has the highest population density in the world but also vast expanses of green forests (about 3,000 miles of them), an ancient tradition tries to balance out the crush from urban living. It's known as shinrin-yoku, or "forest bathing." It's the practice

of spending prolonged periods of time with trees in order to gain from their many health benefits.

Here is the scoop: Forest bathing reduces stress, anxiety, depression, and anger. In Forest Bathing: How Trees Can Help You Find Health And Happiness, the book lists studies that consistently show a substantial reduction of stress hormones. Essential tree oils, such as phytoncides found in forest air (pine trees and cypress tend to be the richest), increase energy levels by more than 30 percent. There is improvement in sleep (an average increase by 15 percent after a two-hour forest walk), a boost of the immune system and in cardiovascular health, and better parasympathetic response (rest-and-recover).

So, spend time in the forest lately?

Free Speech in the Eye of the Beholder

two snails

KQED cartoonist Mark Fiore writes: President Trump signed an executive order

that he says will prevent "ideological intolerance on campus" by withholding federal funding from universities that curtail free speech.

During the signing ceremony at the White House, Trump spoke of "rigid far-left ideologies" and referred to an incident where a recruiter for Turning Point USA was punched while on the UC Berkeley campus.

All three students that Trump singled out during the ceremony were espousing conservative or religious viewpoints on their respective campuses.

I don't seem to recall the president being as enamored with the First Amendment at his campaign rallies or in the news media.

Southern California Mountain Lions Face Local Extinction

two snails

Lions once prevalent over two Southern California mountain ranges could disappear entirely within 50 years, risking local extinction because of conditions

both environmental and genetic.

That's the conclusion of a new study published in the journal Ecological Applications that uses 15 years of observational data, modeling and DNA analysis to analyze how cougar populations are changing in the Santa Monica and Santa Ana mountains.

The coastal Santa Monica range is home to about 15 mountain lions; 30 more survive in the Santa Anas, straddling Orange and Riverside counties. They're penned in by a century of development, ranch and agricultural land, and freeways — Highway 101 in the Santa Monicas, Interstate 15 in the Santa Anas — that are two of the busiest in the world.

But the report's lead author says the group's modeling offers reason for optimism, too, in that enabling lions to cross freeways could minimize risks.

Photo: Johanna Turner via UC Davis

KQED would like to learn about your news habits; if you'd like to share some information with us about them, please take our survey.

Today's KQED News Daily was produced by Miranda Leitsinger in San Francisco. Got ideas, stories, comments? Email me: mleitsinger@kqed.org

---

Manage Subscription | Privacy Policy
KQED 2601 Mariposa St. San Francisco, CA 94110
Copyright © March 21, 2019 KQED. All Rights Reserved.